



Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting
February 5, 2017; 8:00 a.m.
Lighthouse Learning Center for Children
601 SW 8th Avenue, Miami, 33130

Board Attendees: Adrian Alfonso; Theresa Axford (via conference call); Rick Beasley; Maurice Kemp; Heather Carruthers; Loreen Chant (via conference call); Bob Eadie; Alan Eckstein; Gilda Ferradaz; Philip Gassman (via conference call); James Haj; Abilio Rodriguez; Judy Schaechter; Gerals Schwartz; Alex Soto; Iris Strachan; Marisol Diaz; Davis Lawrence

Board Absentees: Matthew Bruno (excused); Shaleen Fagundo; Gladys Montes;

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Milton Silvera; Fred Hicks; Pamela Hollingsworth; Yusneli Martinez; Fiorella Altare; Michelle Meilan; Sandra Gonzalez; Mercy Castiglione; Jackye Russell; Zoyla Edwards; Ana Sejeck; Anabel Espinosa; Kathy Evans; Ileana Vallejo; Corey Jackson; Tammy Garcia; Lidia Clark; Diana Ragbeer

General Attendees: Bob de la Fuente (Board Counsel); Naydy Calderin (Bumblebee Daycare); Soraya Sanabria (My First School); Yanay Haidar (Royal Kids Academy); Vittoria Delaria (Devereux); Julienne Morrison (Devereux); Patricia Beykin (YWCA); Christina Schmiedeh (Smart Start); Marjorie Salazar (Village of Allapattah YMCA); Ashari Rich-Walker (Village of Allapattah YMCA); Helena Martinez (CHN); Maria Diaz (Starting Ahead); Emma Munoz (Citrus); Lizette Morales (Miami Springs Learning Center); Maureen Cordoba (The Village of Early Education); Stephanie Lopez (Citrus); Susan Galceran (Citrus); Wendy Salomon (Family Central); Daniela Foerun (FIU); T. Brown (Celebrity Kids Club); Andria Hoyos (Lincoln-Martí); Jacqia Carter (The Carter Academy)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- L. Sanabria called roll and a quorum was established with seventeen (17) voting members.
- A. Alfonso thanked Virginia Jacko for graciously allowing ELC to hold the board meeting at the Lighthouse for the Blind.
- A. Alfonso stated that Children's Week Celebration at Miami Children's Museum took place on January 19th. There were various activities for the children such as a special Guest Reading with Trolls, Mini-Concert by Voices of Heritage Choir, Capoeira Presentation, On-Site ASQs/Screenings with Help Me Grow and ELC Inclusion Team, Food Distribution with Feeding South Florida, Miami-Dade Public Library System Technology Bus and Fire Safety Presentation with City of Miami Fire-Rescue. A. Alfonso thanked the following partners that assisted in making this event so successful: Aetna, African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, BKB Moms, Barefoot Books, Capoeira Cordao de Ouro Miami, Children's Trust, City of Miami Fire and Rescue, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami, Help Me Grow, History Miami, Fatherhood Task Force, Feeding South Florida, Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Macaroni Kids, Miami Book Fair, Miami-Dade Public Library System and Reading Corps
- A. Alfonso stated that the Early Learning Coalition participated in the annual statewide Literacy Week. The week of Jan. 22-26, students, providers, staff, board members, community partners and families throughout the state read "Big Al"



by Andrew Clements and “Over in the Ocean in a Coral Reef” by Marianne Berkes with infant/toddler classes. A. Alfonso thanked Gerald Schwartz, Gilda Ferradaz, Maurice Kemp, James Haj, Heather Carruthers, other board members who participated and continue to support the mission in such a special way.

- A. Alfonso stated that on behalf of the Board he recognized the following community partners for their support when the Early Learning Coalition tragically lost one of their employees Alicia Roundtree late last year.
 - Citrus – Jackie Romillo, Susan Galceran-Millian, Emma Munoz, Stephanie Lopez & Helena Martinez
 - Family Central – Wendy Salomon & Joe Escarment
- A. Alfonso stated that on behalf of the board he would like to recognize Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff for her continued dedication and support of early learning.
- A. Alfonso stated that achieving accreditation is a significant accomplishment. It signifies a program's dedication to providing a high quality education for the children they serve. A. Alfonso thanked the following providers for their continued dedication.
 - 1 World Learning Center
 - A Magical Learning Center
 - A Sunny Start Preschool II
 - ABC Learning Center
 - Apple Learning Center
 - Bumble Bee Daycare & Learning Center
 - Calderon Large Family Child Care Home
 - Candyland Learning Center
 - Carousel of Angels
 - Catholic Charities Holy Redeemer Child Development Center
 - Celebrity Kids Club of Miami Gardens
 - Country Club Children's Education Center, Inc.
 - Haitian Youth Community Center of Florida, Inc. Lillie M. Williams Head Start
 - Jitta Large Family Child Care Home
 - Kids Paradise Childcare & Learning Center
 - Lincoln Marti 904
 - Lincoln Marti 147
 - Lincoln Marti 2316
 - Lincoln Marti 2310
 - Lincoln Marti 2318
 - Little Learners Preschool Academy Corp.
 - Little Tigers of Miami Gardens
 - Miami Springs Learning Center, Inc.
 - My First School, Inc.
 - Prophete Family Day Care Home
 - Rising Stars Academy & Learning Center, LLC
 - Royal Kids Academy II
 - Smart Starts at Dadeland
 - Starting Ahead Academy
 - The Carter Academy
 - The Village of Early Education
 - Village of Allapattah YMCA Preschool
 - YWCA Colonel Zubkof



II. Approval of Minutes

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from October, 2017.
 - B. Eadie moved to approve the minutes.
 - H. Carruthers seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Report

Adrian Alfonso

- Resolution 012818-01 authorizes the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a lease for the relocation of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe Headquarters, in accordance with the background section of this resolution.
 - Motion to ratify resolution A. Eckstein.
 - Motion seconded by R. Beasley.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

IV. Finance Committee Report

Bob Eadie

- B. Eadie stated that the financial were reviewed and they are projecting a deficit.
- B. Eadie stated that the snapshots were reviewed and Miami Dade county does have a waitlist at the moment. ELC staff will have a spending plan meeting to determine if they will continue to enroll children, likely the wait list will continue to increase. ELC will be requesting additional dollars from OEL approximately 1 million. Monroe County will remain open with 0 children on the waitlist.
- B. Eadie stated that the EHS credit card expenditure report was included in your packet for board review.

V. Provider Services Committee Report

Rick Beasley

- R. Beasley stated that Committee met on December 19th and reviewed the following cases:
 - Greater Love Day Care was placed in a Corrective Action Plan on May 10th, 2017. After the CAP became effective, provider continued to be out of compliance, submitting incomplete attendance for three consecutive or non-consecutive months. When inspected some the items found out of compliance were: child to teacher ratio, baby bottles not labeled, rodents droppings found, cabinets not locked, employees belonging accessible to the children. Inspections done by our health and safety found the situation was getting progressively worse. After reviewing the case the Hearing Committee recommended to terminate the provider's Early Head Start contract.
 - Kiddie Corner Academy was heard by the committee but was tabled until the next meeting pending additional items.

VI. Legislative Committee Report

Alex Soto

- A. Soto stated that the Legislative Committee met on January 18th and the following items were discussed:
 - The upcoming legislative visits will take place February 20 & 21 in Tallahassee. ELC staff has started to schedule meetings with all Miami Dade & Monroe Senators and representatives.



- There are approximately 25 bills that impact early learning. One of the most important ones is a bill stating that we would not have to contract with every single provider. Rodney MacKinnon of OEL supports this bill but there is not a lot of details on what the requirements for providers to contract with the ELC will be.
- Information on all the bills is available on the Legislative update section of the ELC website.
- E. Torres and his staff sent letters to the entire Miami-Dade delegation, seeking their support to ensure Miami-Dade and Monroe do not lose any funding as a result of the funding formula that is being debated in the legislature. The letters were signed by the board chairs of the Children's Movement, the United Way, and the Children's Trust and by Adrian. Having the support of all the chairs is helpful in our push to keep all our funding. We are asking that only new funding be included in the funding formula.
- The ELC will be providing advocacy training to providers in both counties. The first training session will take place this month.

VII. Monroe Advisory Report

Alan Eckstein

- A. Eckstein stated that the Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting was held on January 17, 2018 and the following was discussed:
 - Plaques were presented to Monroe County School District Officials, Superintendent Porter, Terri Axford and 2 Principals, for their recovery support to the child care community.
 - E. Torres discussed the 5 year strategic plan 2017-2022 which was approved by the Board in December. It is a living document that is reviewed annually. There is a need to add measurable outcomes to show progress in each area.
 - Legislative update: One of the most important bills to watch is: [SB 1150 School Readiness Program Funding](#). Miami-Dade/Monroe dollars are the target for this bill. This bill will have a trickle-down effect on how Monroe County operates.
 - Miami-Dade used to have over 70,000 children on the wait list and 1,000 waitlist in Monroe County. The waiting list is almost 0 in Miami-Dade every month, and Monroe County does not have a wait list. This is largely due to an aggressive loss-prevention unit that was modeled after the unit in Hillsborough County. The unit will provide a presentation in Tallahassee, FL during the legislative session.
 - 411 children attended VPK in December, representing a net decrease of 11 children from the month of November 2017. A number of transfer requests were received due families moving.
 - There continues to be no wait list of pending School Readiness applicants for Monroe County and the ELC continues to send invitations to families to enroll their children. The School Readiness child count for December was 459 representing a net increase of 17 children from November 2017.
 - The ELC are recipient of an Ocean Reef grant through United Way to serve families between 150-200 Federal Poverty Level who normally don't qualify in Key Largo. United Way is also exploring additional opportunities to partner with the ELC to serve more of these families.
 - \$100 Publix gift cards were given to all child care center staff for Thanksgiving and to School Readiness families for Christmas. \$500 checks were also given to 10 families on behalf of Kats Hats.
 - The ELC will be offering Orientation Sessions to interested and new providers in Key West, Marathon and Key Largo.



- Currently there are 10 participants in the Performance Funding Program in Monroe County. The goal is to add an additional 5 centers by the end of this fiscal year.
- The PDI and Inclusion Team attended the Journey of Hope Train the Trainer, Caregiver and Junior Journey of Hope workshop at St. James. The training will be offered to families, caregivers and children ages 4-6. Each trainer will be required to train at least 24 children within 6 months. Staff are currently working on a delivery plan to begin in the next few weeks.
- PDI applied for the Ocean Reef Grant in time to meet their need funding deadlines. Upon grant approval, will move forward to set up a Spring Resiliency Summit in the Keys and then a Conference in the fall.
- A better response to the survey of training needs is important so PDI can determine what trainings are needed. The survey will be updated and sent out again this time with support from staff members and Sue Ellen Bennett.
- Only 2 centers are still waiting to open: Kreative Kids and Demming Family Day Care Home in Marathon.
- Many providers are still experiencing low enrollment due to families leaving the area after losing their homes and/or jobs.
- Attended the Florida Association for the Education of Young Children (FLAEYC) conference in Orlando, along with entire staff, and returned with materials and new information to use in the classrooms.
- Head Start has lost students due to the hurricane but they are starting to see some come back.
- VPK enrollment is up by 20 children.

VIII. CEO Report

Evelio Torres

http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR02052018.pdf

IX. Public Comments

Adrian Alfonso

X. Adjourn

Adrian Alfonso